



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 5, 2019

Agenda Item: Elk Third License Initiation – Commission-revised

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 20 Minutes

Background: House Bill 497 passed by the 2019 Montana Legislature amended MCAs 87-2-104 and 87-2-501 to allow the harvest of three elk during any license year, only one of which may be antlered. MCA 87-2-104(3) states that “the commission shall determine the hunting districts or portions of hunting districts for which the licenses are to be issued, the number of licenses to be issued, and all terms and conditions for the use of the licenses.”

During its Dec. 5 meeting the commission voted to modify FWP’s original proposal that had been posted online to allow an additional option for a third license. FWP’s changes to the original proposal in response to commission direction are highlighted in yellow.

FWP is proposing that for licenses listed in the Deer/Elk/Antelope regulations for specific hunting districts or multiple districts, the commission allow the purchase of up to three elk licenses under the following conditions:

1. Only one license may be valid for an antlered bull.
2. For any combination of three licenses, at least one license must be either purchased by surplus sale or an LPT specifically-created as a third-license option. Examples of such a combination include, but may not be limited to:
 - a. One A license valid for an antlered bull, one antlerless B license acquired by drawing or over-the-counter purchase, and one antlerless B license purchased through surplus sale.
 - b. One A license valid for an antlered bull and two antlerless B licenses purchased through surplus sale.
 - c. One antlerless B license acquired by drawing or over-the-counter purchase and two antlerless B licenses purchased through surplus sale.
 - d. Two unlimited antlerless B licenses purchased over-the-counter (but valid for different districts or multiple districts as outlined below) and one antlerless B license purchased through surplus sale.
 - e. Three antlerless B licenses purchased through surplus sale.
3. A person may purchase only one each, but no more than two, of hunting district or multiple-district unlimited B licenses available over-the-counter (e.g. only one Region 2 unlimited 002-00, only one Region 3 unlimited 397-00), but may buy two such licenses if they are valid for different areas.
4. A third elk licenses could also be acquired as a specific license type created by the commission. The proposed licenses created for HDs where shoulder seasons are proposed to be discontinued or not initiated (B licenses 390-00, 417-01, 419-00, 445-00, 447-00 & 595-00 for HDs 390, 391, 411, 417, 419, 445, 447 and all R5 HDs except HD 500) would therefore qualify as a third license option.

Alternatives and Analysis: Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions, or no change.

Commission-adopted Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt for public comment the purchase of up to three elk licenses as listed in the Deer/Elk/Antelope regulations for specific hunting districts or identified multiple districts, and that one of these can be purchased by surplus sale or acquired as a specific LPT to be created by the commission, and that all other measures of the proposal would remain the same to the extent that they do not contradict one another.